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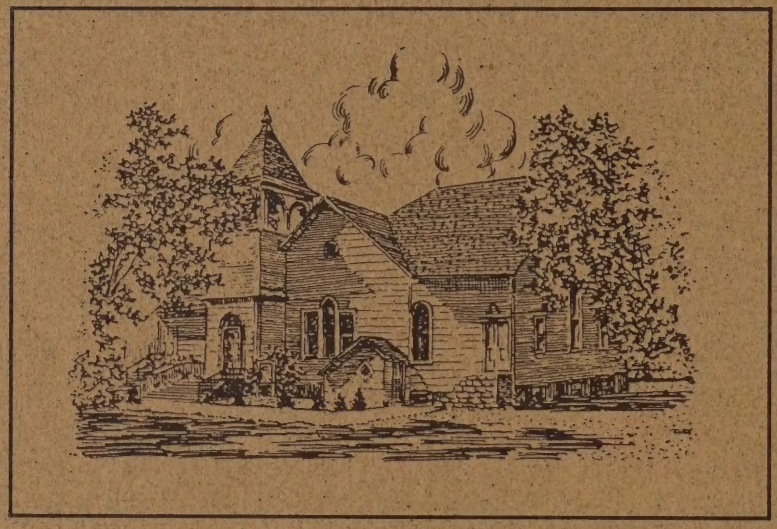

Indian on cover of book by Todd Mowery

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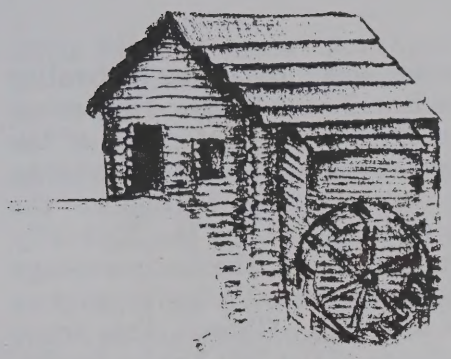

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to the planners for the future,
this book is gratefully dedicated.

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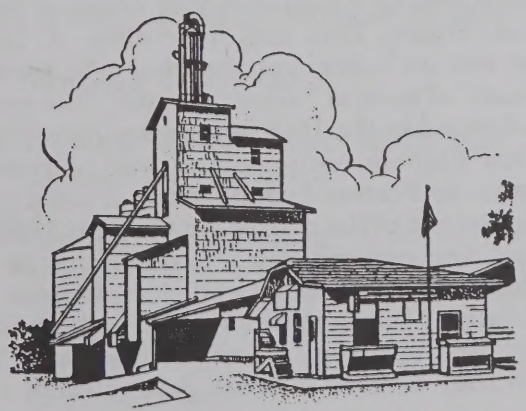


The History of the Richvalley Church

"Rich in Tradition and God's Love"
by Pastor Bruce E. Mowery

The history of the Richvalley church goes back to the year 1870. It was in this year that religious meetings were held in the old school house which stood on the hill north of the town of Richvalley. It was from these early meetings that the First United Brethren Church of Richvalley later evolved. Like many of the churches that were started in the early part of our country's history, the Richvalley Church was formed because of a need to spread the gospel of our Lord. Services were conducted mostly because of the diligent work of Jesse Jay, Samuel McClure, William Cloud and Father Patton.

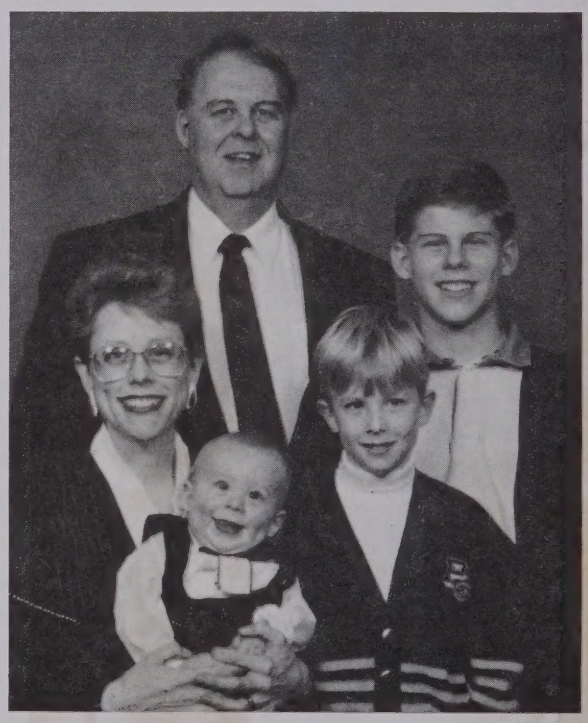
This was before the time of appointed pastors and so most of the preaching or exhortation came from spirit filled laypersons. The main exhorter for these early meetings in the Richvalley Church was Mr. Jesse Jay. He worked for the Lord without financial compensation and his diligence and that of others resulted in many people being converted to Christianity.

One of the first projects for the early church was to fight the negative influences of the local saloon. History reveals that they were successful in this endeavor. Then on November 10, 1874, the United Brethren branch of the Union Church, as it was known at that time, purchased the lot where the present Richvalley United Methodist church now stands. This early parcel of land was bought from Isaac Keller for the sum of $50. The men who brought about this first transaction were the first Trustees of the Richvalley Church. Their names were George Small, George Pihifer, Gideon Marken, Jesse Jay, William Cloud and Fred White.

The church was built and dedicated in the year 1875 at an approximate cost of one thousand dollars. Although self supporting the Richvalley Church was in a circuit of four charges: Beach Grove, Union, Erie and Richvalley. A circuit rider was an intinerant preacher who served a "circuit" of several "appointments". The system was devised in the 18th century by John Wesley for his English societies and was adapted in America by Francis Asbury, where it aided greatly the spread of the church. In the year 1894 the circuit was reduced to a two point charge consisting of the Richvalley and Erie charges. The Richvalley Church continued to grow both financially and spiritually and in the year 1899 Richvalley became a single point charge.

The first pastor appointed to the Richvalley Church was the Rev. Frank Parker. He was appointed by the St. Joseph Conference of the United Brethren Church. As founding pastor he did much to organize and evangelize the Richvalley community and put the Richvally Church on a firm foundation. The first parsonage was also built during Rev. Parker's years as minister of the Richvalley Church. This house is now the residence of the Bill Taylor family.

Down through the years many members have entered the ministry. They are as follows: Henry Bowels, Ed Church, Daniel Barnett, Theodore Harmon, Dave Coldren, Hiram James, Isaac Swank, Henry Miller, Albert Cloud and Floyd Barnett. It was also noted that Lewis Roberts was given a quarterly conference license and was a good lay minister. In recent years we have continued this tradition of lay ministers and have had two join their ranks. In 1991, David Mills was appointed as a Local Lay Pastor and in 1994, Will McLaughlin also was appointed a Local Lay Pastor by our present Bishop, Rev. Woodie White.



Melodi holding Christopher, Pastor Bruce, Eric and Todd.

125 Year Historical Calendar of the Richvalley Church

1870 First United Brethren Church of Richvalley established in a school house on the hill

1874 The United Brethren branch of the Union Circuit, purchased the lot where the present church now stands.

1875 Original part of the church constructed at the present location.

1894 The Richvalley Church became a part of a two point charge with the other part being the Erie Church.

1899 Richvalley became a single point charge. The first parsonage was built and the Rev. Frank Parker was appointed.

1905 First Addition to South Side built.

1916 Further Additions to the South and North Sides were built.

1937 Sanctuary remodeled.

1946 The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church and Richvalley changed its name to reflect this union.

1948 Total Church renovated.

1950 Basement renovated.

1953 New Parsonage Built (Where present parsonage is - built during Rev. Geible's pastorate)

1956 New Carpet in Sanctuary donated by the Ladies Aid

1958 New Gas Furnace Installed in Church building which made it possible for classes to meet in the basement - Improvements were made to Class Rooms and Sanctuary - New glass doors in Main Entrance and Ceiling lowered.

1967 Sanctuary Pews and Pulpit refinished.

1968 Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren to form the United Methodist Church - Richvalley became Richvalley United Methodist.

1969 Bell taken out of the Tower and put at front of Church.

Church trustee, Ron Thrush, "Come unto me, it's heavy laden." Photo by trustee John Denney

1970 Richvalley Church Centennial Celebration

1971 Extensive Exterior Improvements on Church - First Harvest Days Celebration. Flag Pole and Monument to Joseph McClure and the First White Settlers. New Dossal Curtain in Chancel given by Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Row and a New Illuminated Cross that adorns Curtains given by Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hopkins.

1972 Eternal Light given by Youth Fellowship in memory of Michael Hopkins.

1973 New Roof on the Church.

1974 Parking Lot on North is blacktopped.

1979 New Roof on Parsonage.

1980 Mildred Wilson Room built plus additional improvements.

1988 Parking Lot extended, Sunday School Class Rooms renovated, New Sound System (Tape Ministry begins) Primary Sunday School Class recognized for the Birthday Card sent to the Russian Orthodox Church.

1990 Fellowship Room renovated - New Windows and Siding on Parsonage. 120 year celebration.

1991 Sidewalk replaced in front of Church.

1993 New Lighting installed in Sancutary.

1994 Playground Equipment installed in memory of Janelle Sinclair.

From left - Emily Jo Baer, Nathan Lee Baer, Jared Miller, Vince Baer, Stormie Sinclair, Ashley Baer, Mallory Baer. In tent - Vanessa Baer and Tiffany Miller, Grandchildren of Doc and Willamae Baer.

1995 125 year Celebration of the Church.

Banner by Carol Day, dedicated June 4, 1995

There have been many pastors who have served the Richvalley Community in its 125 years. Some of them went by the name of United Brethren pastor, some were Evangelical United Brethren, and still others of us call ourselves United Methodists. Whatever our denominational name might have been, at the heart we are all Christians, working for the same goal of serving the Lord and spreading the Gospel. Here are the names of the pastors who have served this special congregation down through the centuries.

Pastors who served the Richvalley Church when it was on a circuit 1870-1899

William Stettler	**D.B.M. Patton**
J. M. Turflinger	**John Martin**
C. A. McLucas	**John Farmer**
S. B. Johnston	**George Butler**
Samuel Wells	**Elliot Martin**
John Surran	**Fletcher Thomas**
John Forbes	**Robert P. Burton**
J. J. Gallagher	**James A. Groves**
Marhall Fanning	**John W. Eby**

Pastors who served the Richvalley Church when it was a single point charge

W. F. Parker	**1899-1903**
B. F. Thomas	**1903-1906**
C. H. Bell	**1906-1908**
J. W. Borket	**1908-1909**
L. S. Cleaver	**1909-1912**
E. A. Goodwin	**1912-1916**
Rev. Hindbaugh	**1916-1917**
J. A. Sherril	**1917-1918**
A. E. Wake	**1918-1921**
F. Michol	**1921-1922**
J. W. Love	**1922-1925**
E. N. Cornelius	**1925**
C. J. Miner	**1925-1927**
P. L. Mast	**1927-1932**
James A. Weber	**1932-1937**
G. V. Regenos	**1937-1939**
W. B. Taylor	**1939-1941**
J. B. Glick	**1941-44**
H. E. Swihart	**1944-1945**
Donald Klinger	**1945**
R. D. Smith	**1945-1947**
M. D. Geible	**1947-1953**
Richard Eisinger	**1953-1961**
Gerald Mast	**1961-1963**
J. C. White	**1963-1968**
T. E. Dahms	**1968-1969**
Carl Thompson	**1969-1976**
Ray Spooner	**1976-1977**
Paul Wohlford	**1977-1978**
Wayne Baxter	**1978-1981**
John Hostetter	**1981-1986**
Ted Jansen	**1986-1990**
Bruce Mowery	**1990-present**

As the present pastor of the Richvalley Church, I am privileged to be included in it's history. This history started out as a dream of some people in the Richvalley area; a dream that saw a need for a Christian Church to be a presence in the community. Down through the years there have been various business endeavors that have come and gone, General Stores, restaurants, gas station, a tavern, a hotel, a livery, a school, a post office, a doctors office and others. These have all gone, but the church still stands and has as strong a presence as ever. This is because the church is more than a building, it is people. People who pray. People who care, People who love the Lord. In 1993, the church developed a mission statement that we hope will give us focus for ministry for the years to come.

We, the people of Richvalley United Methodist Church, continue the tradition started in 1870, of reaching people in the name of Christ, and to witness to people about the love of God.

We are a community of faith that reaches out to people of all ages. Through faithful reading of the scriptures, we seek God's guidance for our ministry and our lives.

We believe in a strong Sunday School program that ministers to all ages. The Bible is our source or inspiration and guidance

We believe in the power of prayer and practice it.

We believe in the importance of music in the church and affirm it's central place in the life of the church.

We are called to serve the Richvalley community and surrounding areas by living as a witness for Christ in our workplace, home and community.

At annual Conference this year we were challenged to look ahead with vision. We are quickly approaching the 21st century. The Richvalley community will continue to need the presence of the church more than ever. A Church

"Rich in Tradition and God's Love."

Pastor Bruce Mowery

RICHVALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Nomination Committee Report 1995

Administrative Council

Pam Smith	Ad. Council Chr.
Mike Cole	Lay Leader
Will McLauglin	Lay Member to Annual Conf.
Ralph Dyson	Reserve Lay Member
Laura Coldren	Recording Secretary
Joan Day	Treasurer
Sheila Novak	Financial Secretary
Jim Dyson	Finance Chr.
Ben Smith	Trustees Chr.
George Price	Pastor Parish Chr.
Ruth Dyson	Worship Chr.
Mike Cole	Mission Chr.
Carolyn Hopkins	Evangelism Chr.
Jean Wilson	UMW Pres.
Melodi Mowery &	Children Coordinator
Jackie Wilson	Children Coordinator
Sheryl Thrush	UMYF Pres.
George & Cindi Price	Camping Coordinators
Ben & Pam Smith &	Youth Sponsors
George & Cindi Price	Youth Sponsors
Ben Smith	Sunday School Supt.

At Large Members

Eleanor & Eugene Wilson
Rex & Arline Kizer
Sam & Deanna Unger

Trustees

1995	1996	1997
Ben Smith Chr.	Bob Brinson	Gary Wilson
Eugene Wilson	Mike Baker	Rod Novak
Tim Kreider	Dennis Manning	Ralph Dyson

Pastor Parish

Deanna Unger	Will McLaughlin	George Price Chr
Joan Day	Sheila Novak	David Sausaman
Rosie Brinson	Jackie Wilson	Gene Cooper

Nominations

Jane Cole	Joan Day	Jean Wilson
Jane Cooper	Char Kelsheimer	Eleanor Wilson
Ruth Dyson	Tim Cooper	Ray Hopkins

Finance

Jim Dyson Chr.	Pam Smith	Mike Cole
Joan Day	Sheila Novak	Will McLaughlin
	Ben Smith	

Worship

Ruth Dyson Chr.	Patty Cooper	Sheila Novak
Sylvia Sriver	Bessie Custer	Barb Unger
Barb Faust	Randy Thrush	Deanna Unger
Arline Kizer	Cindi Price	Peggy Manning
Vickie Thrush		Patty Cooper

Evangelism

Carolyn Hopkins C hr.		Will McLaughlin
Jane Cole	Pat Bernotas	Rosie Brinson
Vickie Thrush	Nora Sausaman	Ruth Thrush

Missions

Mike Cole Chr.	Jean Wilson	Eileen Eltzroth
Kathy Baker	Jane Cooper	Barb Unger
Barb Unger		Randy Thrush

Family Life

Patty Sausaman	Jackie Wilson	Cheryl Kreider
Nancy Eviston	Melodi Mowerey	Vickie Thrush
	Tammy Unger	

Communion Stewards

Sylvia Sriver	Bessie Custer
Barb Unger	Vickie Thrush

Auditors

Troy Cole	George Price (96)

Tape Ministry

Ruth Dyson	David Sausaman	Dennis Manning
Carolyn Hopkins	Randy Thrush	Ray Hopkins

Flowers & Materials	Jean Wilson
Acolyte Supervisor	Barb Faust
Head Usher	Gene Cooper
Newspaper Reporter	Ruth Dyson
Historian	Ron Thrush
Ministers	Congregation
Pastor	Bruce Mowery

125 Years Celebration Committee

Ron & Ruth Thrush	Pam & Ben Smith
Patty Sausaman	Ralph Dyson
Ruth & Jim Dyson	Arline & Rex Kiser
Will McLaughlin	Cindi & George Price
Joan Day	Marcella Unger
Eleanor & Gene Wilson	Sam & Deanna Unger

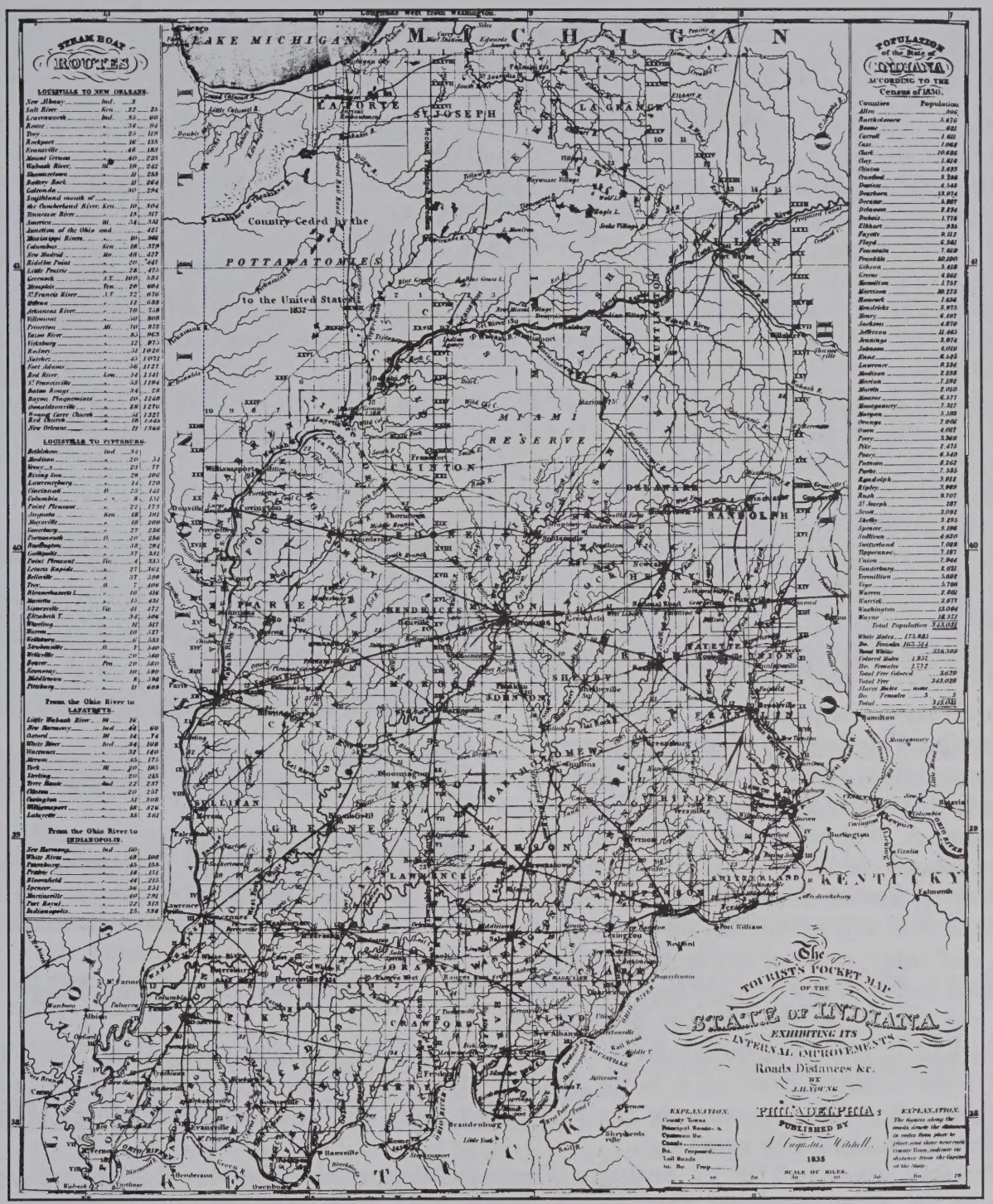
Rev. A. E. Wake, in back row on left side, was Richvalley Pastor - 1918-1921.

Verling Votaw, left of center, was a Proctor & Gamble chemist who played a key part in the discovery of Sweetex which changed the entire baking industry. He also pioneered in the research on Crest tooth paste.

MIAMI INDIAN MILLS
This millstone is a remnant of the grist and saw mills built near here for Miami Indians by United States government as part of 1818 Treaty of St. Mary's. Treaty also established several Miami reservations in area. Possibly first industrial site in what became Wabash County.

Erected in 1995 beside one of the two Indian Millstones by the Indiana Historical Bureau and the Richvalley Lions Club to preserve the rich heritage of the community.

Our sincere thanks to Ron Woodward and Bob McPherson for copying Nineteenth Century Wabash Plain Dealers' Richvalley news columns from the files in the Wabash County Museum; to Todd Titus and the Wabash City Park Board for giving permission to move the Indian Millstone in the City Park to Richvalley; and to Oren Wagner for hauling and setting the Millstone beside the Richvalley Community Building.



Mid-1830's map of Indiana presented to Ron Thrush by Rev. Wayne Baxter, showing the location of the Big Miami Reserve south of the Wabash River. This 900 square mile reservation was established by the United States at the 1818 St. Mary's Treaty of Ohio. The 1820 Indian Mill of the Richvalley community was the first known industry in this region. The reservation remained in the hands of the Indians until November 1840, when it was relinquished to the United States. The largest city to develope within the bounds of the reservation was Kokomo, founded in 1843.

THE RICHVALLEY STORY

By Ronald Thrush

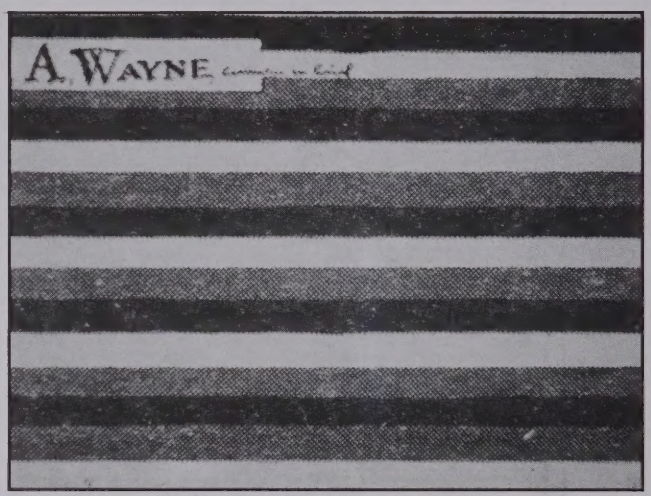
If some stories from Richvalley seem made up, it's understandable. That's because much of our community history has a storybook quality.

For instance, there have been few small towns that have had the good fortune to be made into storybooks. Elisabeth Hamilton Friermood's *Wabash Knows The Secret,* a historical novel based on the Richvalley childhood of her mother, Etta Hale, describes authentic incidences of rural and small town life that date to a century ago.

From the success of this novel, Elisabeth Friermood became a prolific creator of books for young people. Her Richvalley area based *Hoosier Heritage,* was translated into Italian and published in Milan, Italy.

Not only has Richvalley's history reached far places, but stories relating to our community have exceptional depth, dated 200 years ago concerning a special flag presented to a Miami Indian Chief, She-Moc-E-Nish by Anthony Wayne at a most famous Indian treaty, the 1795 Treaty of Greenville, Ohio, which this year of 1995 celebrates its 200th anniversary.

Thanks to a Richvalley doctor, the Indiana Historical Library possesses this remarkable flag from that remarkable era of 200 years ago.



1795 Anthony Wayne Flag

The Anthony Wayne flag was one of several flags given to chiefs of the various Indian Nations following the 1795 Treaty of Greenville. The flag has 15 stripes representing the original 13 states as well as the newly created states of Kentucky and Vermont. The name A. Wayne is sewn in the flag's upper left-hand corner.

Wayne, known as "Mad Anthony", was an American officer in the Revolutionary War, and later, a major general during the Midwest Indian wars during the 1790's. He was victorious in the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, and negotiated the Treaty of Greenville the next year. As a result of this treaty, the Indians gave up a large amount of Southern Ohio land tract to settlement.

Here is how the flag came to the Richvalley area, and how Dr. Perry Moore obtained the flag more than 100 years ago.

The flag, given in 1795 by Anthony Wayne to Miami Chief She-Moc-E-Nish, had passed down to his granddaughter, Kilsoqua. Kilsoqua lived near Roanoke.

Kilsoqua loaned the flag to a cousin, whose husband, James A. Aveline, a Frenchman, lived on the south side of the Wabash River west of Richvalley.

In 1868, Aveline was ill with typhoid fever. The family summoned Dr. Moore from Richvalley to treat him.

While in the Aveline home, Moore noticed parchment manuscripts, as well as silver medals from President George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, relics inherited from Chief She-Moc-E-Nish. He learned of the flag and tried to purchase it but his offer was refused.

Dr. Moore's Home in Richvalley

In 1875, on the northeast corner of Walnut and Bridge streets in Richvalley, Moore built what could be described as one of the finest homes in the Wabash Valley. Several years later, Moore did buy the flag. On November 19, 1886, the flag escaped destruction when Moore's home burned to the ground.

Moore then moved to Wabash, and built the home presently occupied by the American Legion at the corner of Market and Cass streets. Moore kept the flag in a bank vault. One day Moore learned that Kilsoqua was coming to Wabash to appear in court to defend the title to her home. Moore arranged to meet her at the Court House.

During the meeting, he showed Kilsoqua the Anthony Wayne flag, and she recognized it instantly. During their conversation, Kilsoqua documented the flag's history.

The Anthony Wayne flags presented to the chiefs at the 1795 Treaty of Greenville were made on orders from George Washington as symbols of peace between the United States and the Confederation of Indian Nations of the Northwest.

Although Dr. Moore was offered a sizeable sum for the flag - the only surviving Anthony Wayne flag, he refused to sell the historical banner, and presented the flag with its documented history to the Indiana Historical Library in Indianapolis.

The 1818 St. Mary's Treaty.

The Miamis who sided with the British were defeated in the War of 1812. They were described as being very subdued and in need of protection. Calling for a treaty, the United States set up a treaty site in 1818 in Ohio along the St. Mary's River.

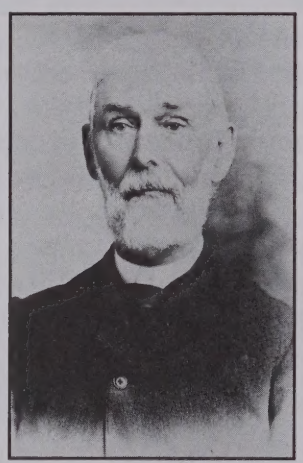
This treaty opened eight million acres to settlement in central Indiana south of the Wabash River, except for an area of 900 square miles for the Indians called the Big Miami Reserve. The eastern boundary was a line 30 miles south from the mouth of the Salamonie River at the present site of Lagro. Thirty miles to the west was a line 30 miles to south from the mouth of Eel River at the present site of Logansport.

1820 Miami Indian Mill

An article of the 1818 St. Marys Treaty found that the Goverment was to construct a water powered grist mill, saw mill and blacksmith shop at a site chosen by the Miamis. A location was chosen beside a stream about two miles southeast from the present site of Richvalley. The stream became known as Mill Creek, named after the Indian Mill, dating to 1820.

The first man hired to operate the mill was Lewis Davis who stayed until 1826. Gillis McBean was hired in 1826 but had become fearful of the Indians and left in 1828.

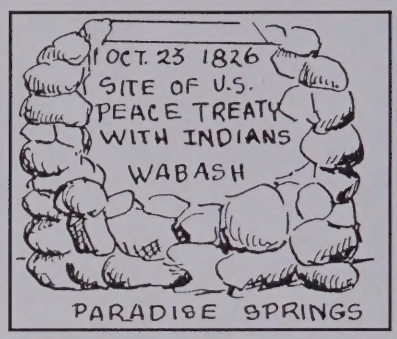
Mrs. Jonathan Keller Sr.



Jonathan Keller Jr. Born May 8, 1830

The last man to take charge of the Indian Mill was Jonathan Keller who came with his family from southern Indiana in 1828. Mrs. Keller was as brave as her husband. They reared a large family. Their youngest child, Jonathan Jr., was the first white child born in what is now Wabash County.

1826 Treaty of Paradise Springs



The 1826 Paradise Springs Treaty was held between the United States Government and the Miami and Potawatomie Indians within the present city of Wabash, with Governor Ray, General Cass and General Tipton appointed commissioners by the Government. This site was near a spring of water near what is now the east end of Market street. This treaty opened the land north of the Wabash River on up to Eel River to settlers.

1827, The First Settler

McClure Home

Samuel McClure arrived in 1827 to become the first permanent white settler in Wabash County. In 1831, he built a brick house east of Richvalley. Although this house has been unoccupied for years it remains the oldest existing building in Wabash County.

Jonathan Keller lived at the Indian Mill for four years. In 1832 he crossed the Wabash River and settled on the hill overlooking the present town of Richvalley. Two brothers, James and Anthony settled near by, creating a "Keller Settlement". Joseph McClure, son of Samuel McClure, set up a trading post east of the Kellers'.

A copy of the ledger of the store of Joseph McClure shows that most of his customers were Indians, but the name of Elizabeth Keller, daughter of Jonathan Keller, is prominent among the customers listed in the ledger.

1832 The First Marriage

In 1832, there was a wedding between the McClure and Keller families. Joseph McClure was to marry Elizabeth Keller, but a major problem was to find a place to get a marriage license. Wabash and Miami counties had not yet been organized. At that time, Grant and Cass counties were much larger, with the county line between the two counties going through what is now Wabash County on Range 5 East, or a mile east of Richvalley.

The couple found they could get a marriage license at the village of Marion, and while there made arrangements with a man that had the authority to perform a wedding ceremony to come to the Keller cabin to marry the couple. On the arrival of the Squire to the cabin on the hill, he noticed he had gotten out of his own jurisdiction of Grant County and over into Cass County. He announced he had no authority to marry them in Cass County, and insisted that they should come over to the sacred soil of Grant County. And come they did, mounting their horses, riding over into Grant County, where under the shades of the friendly forest, and after the fateful words were said, they rode back to the wedding feast at the home of the bride. This is how the first white couple was married in Wabash County.

1832, The Wabash and Erie Canal - Lifeline of a Growing Nation.

Stearns Fisher Home

Construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal began in 1832. By 1837, the canal had been completed through Wabash, Richvalley and to as far as Peru. Stearns Fisher had been appointed General Superintendent of this great thoroughfare that connected the waters of Lake Erie to the Ohio River.

The lock east of Richvalley was named the Stearns Fisher Lock. A wooden archway, called an aqueduct, was constructed to supply a method for the water from Jackson Creek to pass beneath the canal lock. The aqueduct was wide enough for the towpath located on the south side. The lock was covered over and lost when a new overpass was built to span the railroad.

Stearns Fisher's beautiful limestone home east of Richvalley, constructed in the Greek revival style, is one of the few remaining traces of the longest canal ever constructed in America. It is now the residence of Jim and Carol Keffaber.

1836 The First Wheat

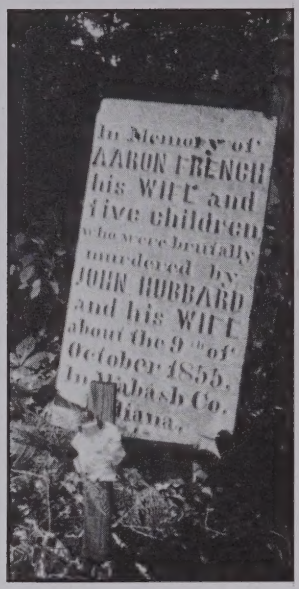
By 1836, Wabash County had become quite extensively settled. It was believed that soils in Wabash County were not adapted to the growth of wheat. It was Dexter Brooks, living northeast of Richvalley that proved that idea to be wrong. Brooks went to White County with three yoke of oxen to get seed wheat. Roads were poor and it took days to make the round trip. In 1836, Dexter harvested the first wheat in Wabash County on the productive acres now owned by Ben Smith.

Today, Ben could make the round trip to White County to get seed wheat in an afternoon.

1840 The Historic Richvalley Cemetery

The Richvalley Cemetery was deeded to people of the community by Jonathan Keller Sr., free of all encumbrances and to the people that wished to lay their folks forever there.

Jonathan Keller died January 1, 1848. His monument is near the center of the cemetery.



Left, May 7, 1995, Jeanette Kinsey of Iowa City, Iowa at the grave of her great-great-great-grandfather, Jonathan Keller Sr., the founder of Richvalley. Right, French family grave.

The Aaron French family, murdered by John Hubbard were buried in the southwest corner. This plain burial marker is one of Wabash County's most famous.

Although no written records were known to exist, records have been compiled by Ron Woodward and members of the Wabash Junior High School History Club. Names and dates from existing stones are recorded and a number of unmarked stones counted.

Using local newspapers in the Wabash County Museum and funeral home records, their research lists more than 220 burials. The list includes seven Civil War veterans and one World War I veteran. The most recent burial was Elsie Kindlesparker in 1981.

The cemetery is maintained by the Richvalley Lions Club.

1854 The Famous French, Hubbard Murder Story

On Saturday night, October 7, 1854, one of the most shocking crimes in history was committed near Richvalley.

John Hubbard and his wife had come to live with Aaron French and his wife and five children

HARDWARE OF MURDER - Articles of murder on display in the Wabash County Museum. Shown are 1., the hammer head used in the slayings, 2., the sheriff's pistol, 3., the handcuffs used on Hubbard, and 4., the lock to the cell door which swung shut on Hubbard.

who were living in a cabin a short distance to the northeast of Richvalley. It was thought that the Hubbards would be of some assistance to French, who was not well and hardly able to make a living for his family.

Soon after, neighbors became curious as to the whereabouts of the French family. Mrs. Hubbard explained that they had purchased French's belongings for forty dollars and that the family moved to Iowa.

Later, Edward Boyle, a canal laborer, who was known to be carrying a sum of money, was invited by Hubbard to come live with him in the French cabin.

Shortly after, this man also disappeeared. In March 1855, his body was found in the canal east of Richvalley. Since it was known previously that Hubbard had no money, but suddenly he had a lot of money, he was arrested and placed in the Wabash County jail on suspicion of murder.

During a visit by his wife to the jail this couple was overheard talking about the French

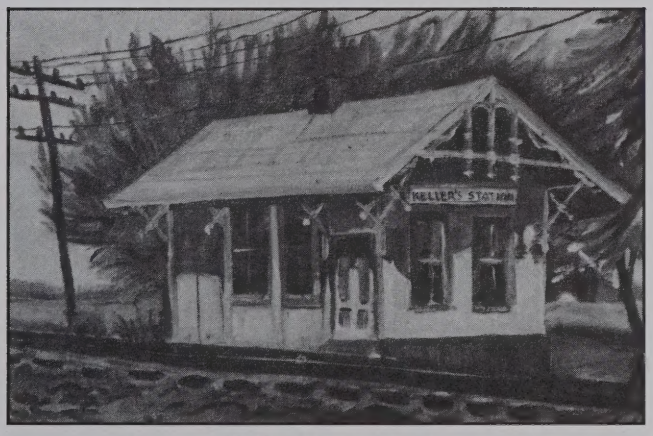
family. This was interesting news.

John Hubbard

Immediately there was an investigation by the county sheriff and his deputy. French and his wife and five children were found buried under the floor of their cabin. Their skulls had been crushed with a heavy hammer.

Hubbard, on trial for murder in the Wabash County Court House was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to death. John Hubbard was executed by hanging on the Wabash County Court House lawn December 13, 1855. His wife was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to life imprisonment for the rest of her life at hard labor. The French family was reburied in the Richvalley Cemetery.

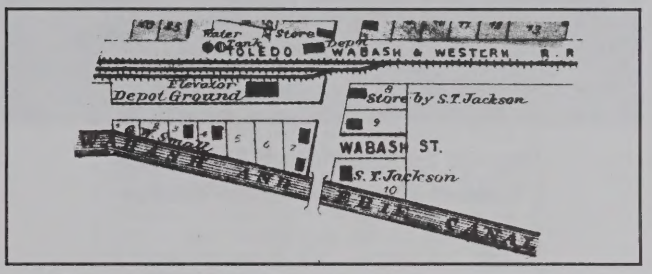
1856 First Railroad in Wabash County passed through Richvalley



Keller's Station

With the arrival of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad near by to the north of the Wabash and Erie Canal, the town became known as Keller's Station. The town then had two important modes of transportation. Ironically, the canal had encouraged the westward expansion and stimulated business immensely. This was to create a need for a more general type of transportation, resulting in the development of a railraod system that was ruinous to the canal.

1861 Keller Addition No. 1 Platted



This first platt in Richvalley was recorded by John H. Keller and Isaac Keller, sons of Jonathan Keller Sr., between the canal and the railroad. At that time the railroad set aside land to the south side of the track to construct a switch. It was beside the switch that a grain house with a capacity of 25,000 bushels was built.

1870 Richvalley United Brethren Church Established

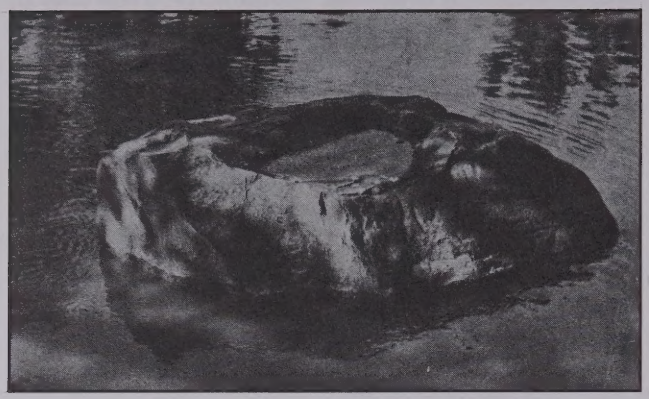
Richvalley news item
from the Wabash Plain Dealer.

Paddy Dwire's saloon is working admirably. We might report this week, five injuries; one black eye, one broken nose, one tooth knocked out, one lip bursted, and one scalp dislocated, and besides the worthy proprietor getting a good many choice epithets rained upon his devoted head.

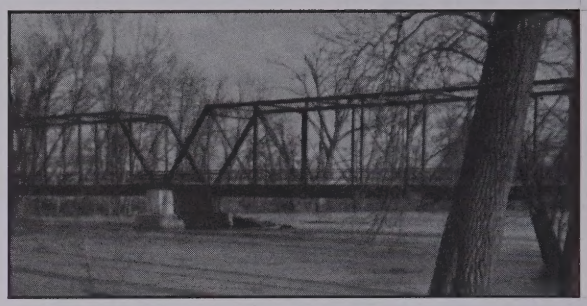
One hundred and twenty-five years ago, a group of men, some of whom were of the earliest pioneers, held a meeting up on the hill in an old school house. A series of meetings were scheduled, mainly through the efforts of Jesse Jay, Samuel McClure, William Cloud and Father Patton. These meetings were well attended and these consecrated pioneers were victorious over the local saloon and its forces which prevailed in the town, and so the Richvalley Church got its start.

1872

First Richvalley River Bridge Constructed.



Miami Indians' Dish Pan Rock
East of the Richvalley Bridge

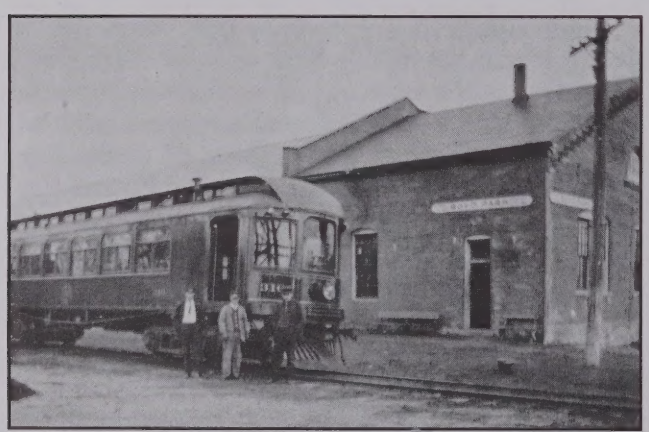


Richvalley Bridge 1872-1969

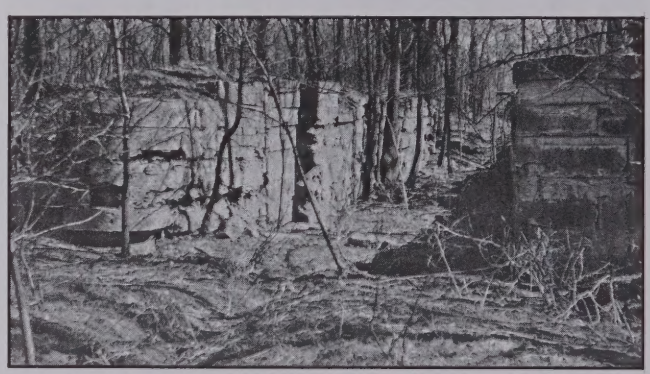
The Old River Bridge At Richvalley

By Raymond Thompson

The old river bridge will soon be torn down
That leads from the Prairie to Richvalley town
The farmers all hauled their grain to the mill
Across this old bridge that is serving them still
There is history surrounding this graceful old Span
Some caused by nature and some made by man
The Miami Indians camped on the rivers south side
In their leathern tepees they would sleep and abide
Down at the shore was the old Indian Rock
Still on its firm base surviving the shock
Of the rise and the fall of the seasons swift tide
Its place in the picture shall not be denied
Boyd Park years ago was a place so they say
Where the action was reigning and night life would sway
The old interurban of trolley and track
Would bring people out and then take them back
I heard of this place when I was a lad
The tales of enjoyment the young people had
Just up the river from this old bridge
Is a remnant of "Lock" beneath the high ridge
Where the barges and boats would be detained for a while
To be raised or lowered to the watery aisle
So they could be on their way either east or west
As this transportation was one of the best
Now these things I've mentioned are all obsolete
Except for the bridge and its piers of concrete
A new bridge was constructed in esthetic flair
To carry the traffic from here unto there
If the old bridge could talk it probably would say
"carry On, Carry On", for I've had my day.



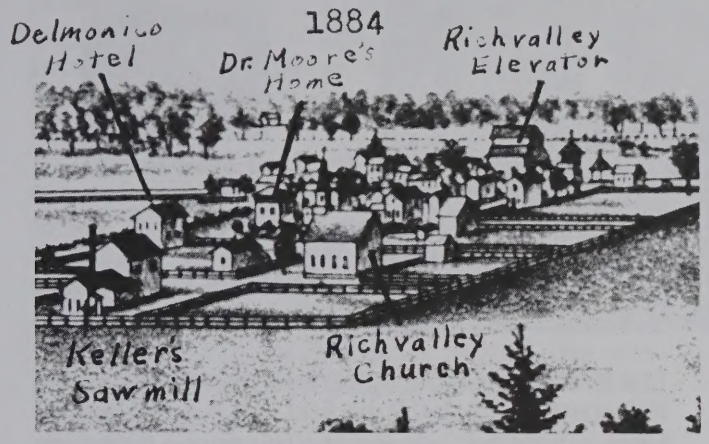
Interurban at Boyd Park



Remains of Stearns Fisher Lock
east of Richvalley

1872

Original part of the present Richvalley Elevator constructed with a capacity of 25,000 bushels. In early days, the elevator was powered by a steam engine. The fuel used to produce the energy to power the engine were cobs from the elevator's shelled corn.



1875

Original part of the present Richvalley Church consisting of one room is built and dedicated October 17, 1875.

RICH VALLEY, Oct. 25, 1875.

The dedication of the U. B. Church here on the 17th called out a large crowd. Rev. Casle preached the dedication sermon from the 11th, 12th and 13th verses of the 19th chapter of the Book of Revelations. Some folks failed to see the application—but then, some people are so dull of apprehension! The house is neat and commodious, and we can hardly see how we ever did stand it to meet so long in that old brick school-house that stands yonder upon the brow of the hill, overlooking the valley; yet it has associated with it many pleasant memories, but we gladly leave it to that despised sect that is "everywhere spoken against."

Dr. Moore's new house approaches completion. The Dr. is manifesting much good taste, both in the style and finish, and, when done, it will be an ornament to this part of the Wabash Valley.

1886

Wabash Plain Dealer

RICH VALLEY.

THURSDAY, July 22.

The first new wheat sold and delivered in the county this season was received from Mr. A. J. Barnett by Messrs. Elward & Adams at this place on July 10th, the wheat weighing over sixty pounds to the bushel. This firm has received at this place upwards of 7,000 bushels of wheat. One day's receipts amounted to over 1,500 bushels.

Our village is becoming an important shipping point. Thirteen car loads of wheat have been shipped since July 12th by Elward & Adams, and on last Saturday Mr. Tim Craft shipped three hundred head of hogs to Buffalo for Messrs. Hiller and Whittenberger, of Peru. Mr. Craft tells us he has over 600 head engaged for August and September delivery.

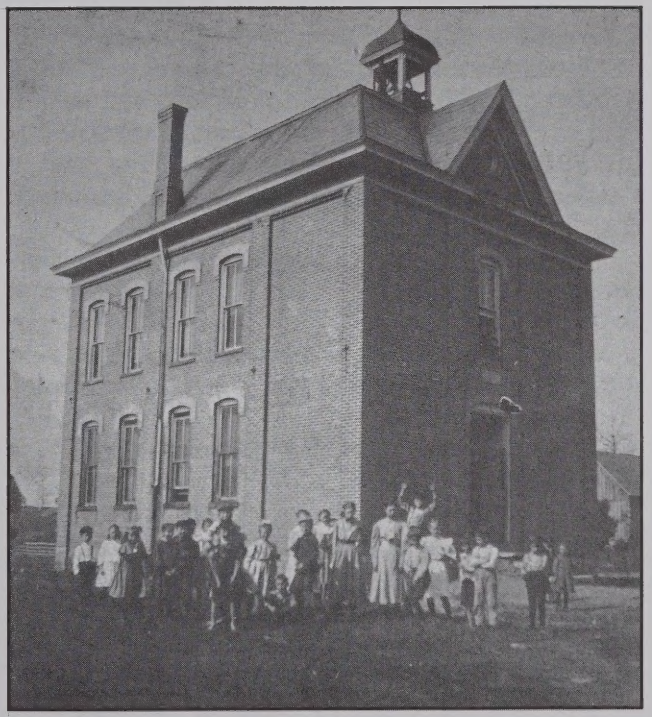
Construction of the new eight-grade brick school below the hill is completed.

Wabash Plain Dealer

RICH VALLEY.

THURSDAY, Sept. 30.

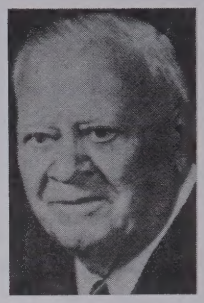
The winter term of school opened last week in the new brick school house, with Mr. George Burke as principal, and Miss Edith Wheeler as assistant. The present outlook is very encouraging. The scholars seem to be filled with renewed interest in their studies, and the teachers are evidently determined to show the best record of any school in the county at the end of the term, which, beyond question, they will do.



This school was in use for thirty years. The building became a residence when the upper story was removed. It is now the home of Dick Simons.

1888

The Story of the Murphys' and the Incredible Mr. Ewing



Loren Berry

Orlando Ewing, 6th from left

Wabash Plain Dealer

> **RICH VALLEY.**
> WEDNESDAY, Nov. 21.
>
> Our cornet band is making splendid progress. The Range Line boys must "hustle" or the "kids" will out-do them. So says Mr. Ewing, and what Lan don't know about bands isn't worth mentioning.

This story concerns a strange coincidence involving families and personalities of the Richvalley community.

More than a century ago, about two miles northeast of Richvalley was a location called Murphy's Corner. This little corner of activity included a school, a blacksmith shop and a Lutheran Church, established in 1865, known as the "Murphy Church".

In 1849, Philip Murphy settled on the northeast corner at the present site of the home of Ken McKillip. A son, David Murphy was to marry and move to a farm near by to the west on the south side of the road.

Among the children of David Murphy was a daughter named Elizabeth, born in 1860. She married Charles Berry who was the principal of the Wabash South Side School.

A son, Loren, was born to this couple in 1888. His father died in 1892. To rear her son and maintain her home, his mother worked as a seamstress, and served as a maternity nurse.

When Lorin Berry was eight years old, he helped his mother by selling door-to-door horseradish that he dug, cleaned and ground. Later, he worked for the Wabash Plain Dealer and gained his first experience in selling advertising space. By 1910, he had arrived in Dayton, Ohio, where he founded the telephone directory operation that became known as the L. M. Berry Company, Promoter of the Yellow Pages.

In 1976, the story of his successful career of "rags to riches" gained him the renowned Horatio Alger Award. He died in 1980. In 1992, his son, John Berry, made a commitment of $25 million, with an additional amount contributed by the Loren M. Berry Foundation to Dartmouth College to build a new library.

Loren Berry's mother, Elizabeth Murphy Berry, died in Dayton, Ohio in 1964 at the age of 104. Her burial was beside her husband in the Wallace Cemetery, a mile and a half east of where she was born.

Just one mile north of Murphy's Corner was the home of the Ewing family. Orlando Ewing, within his own imagination and curiosity was well educated. His father, Samuel Ewing, served as county surveyor for eighteen years. In his time, he was regarded the best mathematician in Wabash County.

Orlando, or "Lan", had a special interest in music. He wrote music, printing music from plates he made. He taught several farm boys how to play band instruments and organized a band in 1885, called the Range Line Cornet Band.

Among members of this band was Gilbert LaSalle, who became known as Dr. G. M. LaSalle of Wabash, He had three grandsons that became physicians, Richard and Robert, now retired, and Dr. William LaSalle, an orthopedic surgeon in Fort Wayne.

Orlando Ewing's son, Glen Ewing played

a clarinet in the band. He became one of the finest clarinetists of his time. As a member of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, he occupied the first chair in the clarinet section.

Two younger sons were clarinetists of professional ability. Edgar Ewing worked his way through college with his instrument to become a physician. Charles became a professor of music at the Conservatory of Music in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Ewing's youngest son, James Ewing, located in Nashville, Tennessee, where he invented an apparatus called a Fridged Heat Machine, an electronic device that became useful in industry.

The ability that the Ewing brothers' had comes from nature. The sheer brilliance of their father, Orlando Ewing, staggers the imagination. He had a ninth grade education and taught school for twenty-one years. Without the benefit of extensive education, he was capable of solving problems in mathematics beyond the comprehention of most mathematicians. He worked twenty-seven years on a problem of calculus, from a book of calculus, discovering that the answer he had arrived at was different than that in the book. Through a large stack of papers he went through this problem in reverse, finding he had made no mistake, proving to his satisfaction that the answer in the book was wrong.

Perhaps it would not be so surprising that this man in the 1870's was working on a device called a telephone. He applied for a patent for the invention of the telephone, only to find that he had been beaten by two weeks by Alexander Graham Bell.

It seems ironic that this man with the apparent potential of an Edison, was never to reach the fame that he possibly could have had, whereas only a mile to the south, a decendent of the Murphy family was to reach a huge fortune from the idea of telephone directory advertising to become one of the wealthiest men in America.

1892

Worst disaster caused by nature in history of the community, the Kentner Creek Train wreck. Five men were killed.

July 13, *Richvalley news item from the Wabash Plain Dealer*

The Wabash Railroad Co. has had officers here this week, searching for missing wool and cotton. They lost over two hundred sacks of wool and several bales of cotton in the wreck. The swift current in Kentner Creek no doubt carried most of it into the Wabash River.

Kentner Creek Train Wreck

This disaster is mentioned in the novel, *The Wabash Knows The Secret,* in the chapter, "A Stormy Night".

On the night of July 1, a flash flood came into Richvalley. Water was knee deep in the town north of the railroad. The Kentner Creek railroad bridge east of Richvalley washed out and the westbound train ran off the track.

1893

January 13, *The Wabash Plain Dealer*

Viewers from Wabash and Miami counties are at work on the Wilson ditch, which when completed,will drain the greater part of the prairie south of Richvalley. This ditch and the Harry Barnett ditch, which has been lately established, will drain several thousand acres of land of little value, and add vastly to the wealth of the owners.

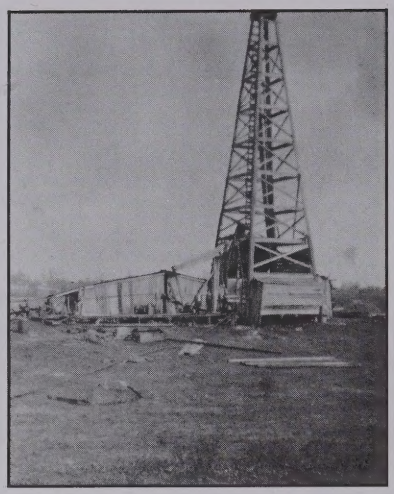
1893

April 7. *The Wabash Plain Dealer*

This town was visited by a destructive fire which entirely destroyed the saw mill owned by John Keller. The fire is supposed to have caught from the furnace and was not discovered until the entire building was a sheet of flames. The loss was about $2,000. No insurance.

The saw mill was at the present site of the Richvalley Community Center.

1898
Richvalley Oil Boom



Oil Well near the church.

March 4 *Wabash Plain Dealer*

NOTES FROM THE OIL FIELD

Two Wells at Rich Valley Producing Large Profits, Owing to Advance in Oil--New Wells Going Down.

The big boom in crude oil prices fills the souls of the well-owners in the Rich Valley district with pure delight. Tuesday there was an advance of ten cents per barrel, and previously the quotations showed an advance of four cents per barrel from the low point. Each of the wells now producing down there yields eighty-five barrels per day. This at fifty-five cents per barrel amounts to $46.75 per well per day. The expense of pumping, etc., is not more than ten dollars per day, so that the net profits from the operation of the well is about $36.75 per day. Many wells which with the low prices for oil prevailing a few months ago, were worthless, can now be pumped at a profit, and additional incentive is afforded for drilling new wells.

The Rich Valley company will shortly commence drilling at the school house, and also another well between the canal and river.

The Paper company employes are at work on the derrick for their well at the Casper farm.

Two cars of two-inch pipe for the new pipe line were dropped at Rich Valley Tuesday.

1898

The First Telephone.

April 1 *Wabash Plain Dealer*

OFFICE AT RICH VALLEY.

The Central Union Telephone Co. Profits by the Hesitancy of the Home Company—Hello, This Week.

Dr. R. F. Blount, president of the Home Telephone company, some time ago, advocated the establishment of a telephone station at Rich Valley, but the directors opposed the project. In the meantime the Central Union company saw the importance of a station in the oil field and immediately went to work to establish an office there. It will be located in Small Bros.' general store and will be ready for receiving and transmitting messages the latter part of this week.

1899
The First Parsonage

With the arrival of Rev. Frank Parker in 1899, Richvalley became a station with its own pastor. The first parsonage was erected under his pastorate and he was the first resident, staying until 1903. The last to reside in the parsonage was Rev. Merrill Geible with his family, serving at Richvalley from 1947 to 1953. It was during his pastorate that the new parsonage was built.

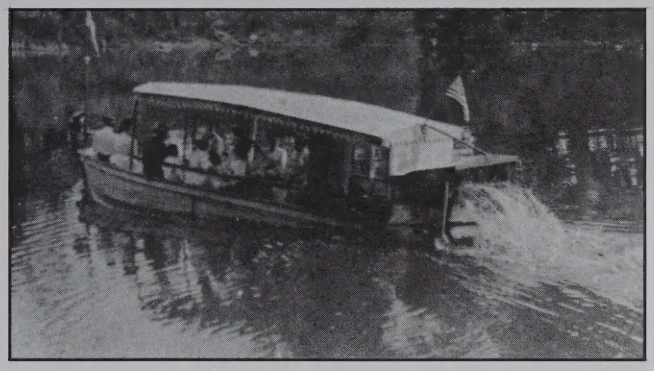
1901
Boyd Park Established

F. C. Boyd established the amusement park from 18 acres of the David Barnett farm. The roller coaster, the first in Indiana, was the most important attraction. Persons identified in the picture, on the left; Oliga Mae Barnett, with white hat, oldest daughter of Dan Barnett. The lady to her right is Frances Ellen Barnett, youngest daughter of David Barnett. Information courtesy of Joan Rettig Owen.

1905

July 18, *Wabash Plain Dealer*

The Launch Togo will be operated from Wabash to Boyd Park and will continue as an excursion boat between the city and the park.



Picture of paddle wheel boat "Togo" courtesy of the Miami County Historical Museum.

By 1905 the park may have reached its zenith. Immense crowds thronged cars on lines from Peru, Wabash, Marion and Fort Wayne leading to the splendid park featuring the noted Creatore and his Italian Band. The theater with the seating capacity of 1500 was filled.

Located south of Richvalley on the north side of the Wabash River, attractions included musicals and vaudeville acts as well as balloon ascentions and early-day airplane flights. The Pavilion and Interurban station were on the west side of the road.

Boyd Park Pavilion

1905

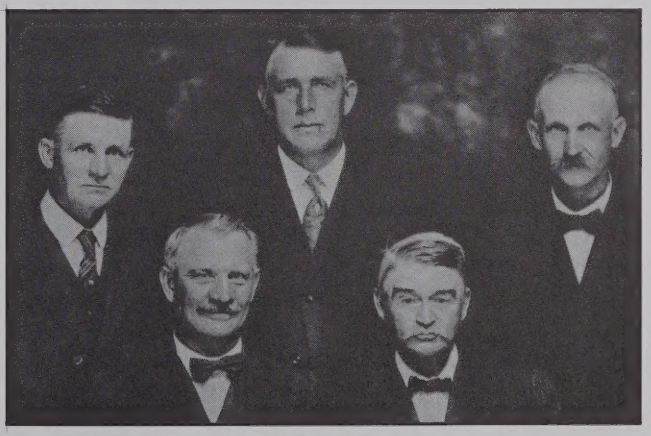
First addition built to south side of church during ministry of Rev. B. F. Thomas.

1913
Worst Flood in history of the Community

View from upper level of the Richvalley Elevator. The Boyd Park interurban station is showing in the background.

1916

Major additions made to north and south sides of church under the pastorate of Rev. E. A. Goodwin.



1916 BUILDING COMMITTEE
Front - Lee Barnett, Lew Roberts. Back - Omer Wilson, Walter Wilson, Homer Kirtlin.

This addition extended from the addition which was built on the south side in 1905. The addition to the north side formed a new chancel and choir loft.

1916
Farmers Purchase the Richvalley Elevator

By Sam Unger
Excerpt from *The Richvalley Reporter,*May, 1995

The Richvalley Elevator has been a main stay of the Richvalley community for many years. The elevator had its start in 1861 when the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad set aside land to the south of it's track to construct a switch. It was beside this switch that a grain house was built in 1872 with a capacity of 25,000 bushels.

In 1886, William Elward and W. R. Adams, owners of the Lagro Elevator, leased the Richvalley Elevator. In 1882, Elward bought out Adams to become the sole proprietor of the Richvalley, Lagro, and Wabash Elevators. In 1912 the elevator was sold to the Morrow Bros. Grain Co. of Wabash. They owned the elevator until 1916 when a total of $9,000 was collected from over 30 farmers to purchase the local elevator. Capital stock in this new company was to be $25,000, divided into 1000 shares of $25 each. This corporation was to be known as the Richvalley Co-operative Elevator Company. The board of directors was to consist of nine stockholders elected at the annual stockholders meeting for a term of three years. The first nine directors were: Donta Russel, Osro Doster, Milo Pearson, J. A. Irelan, Jake Campbell, Ed Ford, Martin Houlihan, Floyd Barnett and Joe Thrush. Their first manager was Frank Clupper who served until 1942 followed by Garl Row 1942 to 1958, George Tucker 1958 to 1964, Warren Langdon 1964 to 1979, Hubert Ball 1979, and Joann Barrows 1979 to 1986. During this period many improvements were made to the elevator due to the tremendous technologic al changes in agriculture. During the 60's grain dryers were installed. The first two dryers installed were each capable of drying 300 bushels per hour. In 1967 more improvements were made. The drying and elevating capacity of the elevator was improved to 3000 BU. per hour. Drying capacity to 1200 BU. per hour and a new 12,000 BU. storage tank was added. The cost of the 1967 improvements was approximately $58,000. In 1970 another 25,000 BU. storage was added.

In 1986 it became apparent that the Richvalley Elevator, because of its size, could not compete in the changing agriculture economy of the 80's. On July 1, 1986 the Richvalley Elevator was purchased by Agmax, formerly known as the Clinton County Farm Bureau Co-Op. Because of this merger, Richvalley was still able to remain a viable elevator for the local farmers. Paul Douglas, was named interim manager from July 1, 1986, until August 15 1986, when George Rice was appointed manager.During the ownership of Richvalley by Agmax a new grain dryer was installed. Two feed rooms were removed. The lumber shed was torn down. Speeds increased on the legs and augers, and the elevator received a new paint job. By 1994 it became apparent the Agmax needed to unload the elevator in order to concentrate their efforts more in their own local area of Clinton County. On September 1, 1994 the elevator was purchased by North Central Co-Op and today it remains an important and necessary business to the community.

1918

The first of the 3rd and 4th grade students in the new Richvalley School.

1918 Third and Fourth Grade

Front from left, 1. Helen Hayes, 3, Dorothy Thrush, 6. Irene Craft, 8. Edith Ford. Middle row, 5. Elizabeth Barnett, 7. Opal Higgley, 9. Carl Smith, 10 Cecil Weesner. Back row, 1. Nelson Marks, 2. George Weisenberger, 4. Byron Weesner, and teacher, Fanny Goodwin.

Noble Township School Hack

When the new four-room eight-grade Richvalley School opened, students were hauled to school in horse-drawn "kid hacks", and the only lunch program was what was in a dinner bucket. The last to drive a horse-drawn hack to Richvalley was Miami Indian Clarence Godfroy, great-great-grandson of Frances Slocum. By the middle 1920's the hacks were motorized. The school was north of the town on the east side of the road.

The following page is the 1927-28 eight grades of the Richvalley School. Students of Miami Indian descent in the picture are: Lora Marks Siders, Secretary of the Miami Nation of Indians of Indiana; Nathaniel, Monroe, and Donald Day; and Basil, Luanna, and Virginia Weisenberger. In 1928, the school was reduced to the first six grades, and this last Richvalley School was closed in 1933.

1928 Girls Basketball Squad

Left to right, Eileen Reynolds, Laura Jean Keller (great granddaughter of Jonathan Keller Sr.), Josephine Ulshafer, Helen Hinkle, Relna Working, and Thelma Miller. Back row, Florence Allman, teacher, Dorothy Odum, Henrietta Ford, Aretta Marks, Virginia Barnett and Floyd Glass, principal.

Being near the Indian land, Richvalley had experiences with the Indians for years after most people had almost forgotten the red man.

Chief Clarence Godfroy

Miami Indian Charles Votra attended the last Richvalley School for six years.

LaMoine Marks of Miami Indian descent was a student of Richvalley's last school and graduated from Butler High School in Miami County.

He became a professional boxer and was billed as the "Indian Kid". He later changed a hobby of taxidermy into a profession.

He was born in Wabash County in 1907, and at age 87 authored a book on the life of his great-grandmother, Hannah Thorpe, a white child who was a captive of the Miami Indians.

Those that have been identified - left to right: First Row, sitting on ground—Iola Hinkle, Tom Keith, Wilbur Thrush, John Stone, Eugene Wilson, Miriam Working, Virginia Weisenberger, Relna Zook, Virginia Wilson, James Weesner, unknown, Ed Zimmerman, Pearl Marie Engleman, Julia Marks, Milton Barnett Jr., Marland Niccum, Helen Duff.
Middle Group, kneeling—John Routt, Marvin Engleman, Luanna Weisenberger, Idabelle Votaw, Wanda Brubaker, Wilma Marks, Lois Zimmerman, Mary Glee Engleman, Wanda Keller, Arline Row, Betty Warner, Harry Hayes, Ross Reynolds, Carl Luckey, Lawrence Zook, Henrietta Ford, Ray VanDyke, Barbara Routt, Monroe Day, Walter Unger, Bernard Cooper, Laura Marks, Ed Ulshafer, Allen Routt, Esther Keith, Basil Weisenberger, Dwight Working, Orland Unger, Delbert Zook, Donald Day, Russel Barnett, Jean Smith, Fred Routt, Merlee Brothers, Wayne Working.
Standing—Jewel Brothers, Mary Sloop, Bert Brothers, Aretta Marks, Virginia Barnett, George Welch, Virgil Carlin, J. D. Coldren, Sam Barnett, John Zimmerman, Richard Houser, Fred Hinkle, Helen Hinkle, Josephine Ulshafer, Dorothy Odum, Murrel Campbell, Nathaniel Day, Clyde Keller, Joe Working, Eileen Reynolds, Laura Jean Keller, Relna Working, Ruth Warner, Thelma Miller, Evelyn Row, Margarie Hayes, Evelyn Simon, Ronald Thrush.
Teachers—Florence Allman, Mary Bowman, Floyd Glass, Irene Harvey.

1927

The Richvalley Prairiettes 4-H

From *The Richvalley Reporter,* June, 1995
By Ruth Dyson and Jane Long

Approximately 1927 the first 4-H club was founded in Richvalley with Mrs. Richard Flora as leader. Mrs. Ollie Whitesel and Mrs. Alvah Dubois were leaders later.

Mrs. Everett (Ethlemarie) Kirby served as leader of the Richvalley Prairiettes 4-H for 25 years from 1963 to 1978. She was a very strong leader and helped the 4-Hers in many ways in the community. 22 were in the club in 1975.

Carol Fleck Early and Bea Barnett Wilson were leaders after Mrs. Kirby.

In 1980, Jane Long became the leader while her three daughters were in 4-H. Jane was also a strong leader. She was helped by former 4-Her Susie Wilson Hampton (1 year) and Sheila Novak (10 years). Jane retired in 1991.

The latest leaders are Ben Smith and Pastor Bruce Mowery.

Around 1976 when boys and girls were allowed in the same club, the club name was changed to Richvalley Pioneers 4-H Club.

Under the able leadership of Ben and Bruce there are 11 members, including: Ben & Monica Cooper; Chad Guyer; Alex, Patrick & Rosanna Fogle; Todd Mowery; Abby and Andy Smith; Serena & Sheryl Thrush.

A party at Mrs. Kirby's - Sept., 1959
Back row: Susie Wilson; Diana Kirby; Mary Quinn; Cheryl Kizer; Nancy Pressler; Iladean Richards; Joyce Unger; ?; Bonnie Kirby.
Seated: Marjory Ferrier; Treva Jackson; Toby Cooper (Ruth); Linda or Judy Miley; Sue Cooper; Brenda Jackson.
Front: Judy Hoch; Peggy Pressler; Janie Wilson; Cindi Unger; Joanie Barnett; Anita Hoch; Joyce Sparling.

The present officers are: President - Sheryl Thrush; Vice-President - Andy Smith; Treasurer - Chad Guyer; Secretary - Serena Thrush; Health/Safety - Monica Cooper; Recreation - Patrick Fogle and Ben Cooper; Singing - Abby Smith & Todd Mowery.

Projects have been changed over the years. A new project is Consumer Clothing. In the local 4-H club this year, no one is enrolled in Foods. Good luck at the Wabash County 4-H Fair in July.

1929

Coldren's Trucking

Walter Coldren on right

By Laura Coldren

Excerpt from *The Richvalley Reporter,* April, 1995

Walter E. Coldren started his trucking business in 1929 with the purchase of a ton and a half truck. He worked nights at the paper mill in Wabash and hauled in the daytime. As he was able to increase the hauling he then worked full time at it. He once hauled a load of elephants on his first semi-truck.

In the early years he built his own truck beds and they were sturdy trucks. He was good a building and welding things. Through the years Coldren Trucking provided employment for many truck drivers.

In 1945, when Walter Jr. and I were married, Coldren Trucking consisted of 3 semi-trucks, 2 limespreading trucks, and 2 straight trucks that hauled livestock, peas and lima beans from farms to viners then to the canning factory; ear corn, corn cobs from elevator to farms for bedding or homes for heating purposes, and sweet corn to the canning factory. Sometimes the semis hauled tomatoes to the canning factory, apples to fruit markets and popcorn to processors in season from farms. Other things hauled occasionally were steel, sewage tile, drainage tile and hay bales.

As agriculture changed so did the trucking business. Government regulations and inflation also made changes. In the late 60's and early 70's livestock hauling slowed for off the farm hauling but increased in hauling to East Coast packers. Limestone decreased in use. At this time Coldren Trucking gradually became a family employed business. Limespreaders were gradually diminished. Livestock hauling also lessoned due to government regulations and inflation and closed packing houses so grain trucking was taken up. Shelled corn, soybeans, wheat and oats were hauled to in and out of state terminals.

After the death of Warren Langdon, Richvalley Elevator manager, grain hauling became an in-state hauling only, which it is today. It was interesting to see grain loaded on foreign boats in Toledo, Ohio. They were guarded by security guards.

Walter E. Coldren's health kept him from driving the trucks during the 50's but he ran the business and kept the books. In the late 60's and 70's Walter Jr., son Dean Coldren and grandson Sam Coldren did the hauling of livestock, limestone and grain.

Walter E. Coldren died June 19, 1978 leaving sole ownership to his wife, Chloe Coldren. The business continued with Chloe keeping the books and all office duties while Walter Jr., Dean and Sam did the hauling and kept the trucks running. (Mom Coldren had been keeping the books for several years as her husband's health diminished). In the late 80's livestock hauling slowed more so grain hauling was kept up and trucks were sold.

On February 8, 1987 Walter Jr. died. Dean and Sam kept on hauling. Today, Dean Coldren hauls grain and Sam works at Indiana Livestock at Amboy. Sam also hauls livestock with his own straight truck.

I keep remembering the many times we would walk into a Howard Johnsons Restaurant and hear someone remark, "They should bar all trucks off the roads." We would hear that and laugh to ourselves knowing all the food they were eating was hauled by a truck, sometimes more than once.

It has been a good life. My contribution to Coldren Trucking was small but I feel pride of all the hard work the family did all those years and having known all who worked here besides family.

I remember one time an article in Wall Street Journal printed that Coldren Trucking was an Indiana small business to watch as an upcoming business.

1940
The Richvalley Extension Homemakers

Richvalley Home Ec. Club Charter Members
First Row – Dorthea Clark, Arline Manning, Ella River, Lila Moore.
Second Row – Winona Barnett, Lucy (Row) Harnish, Lizzie Coblentz, Sarah Weisenberger, Ethel Barnett, Rose Barnett, Nora Stone, Emma Baer.

Excerpt from the *Richvalley Reporter,*
February, 1995

The Richvalley Home Economics Club was organized at the instigation of Mrs. Charles (Lila) Moore (mother of Nedra Garrison) in her home June 5, 1940. The first officeers elected were: Pres. - Lucy Row, (mother of Arline & Evelyn); Vice Pres. - Ella River; Sec./Treas. - Rose Barnett (mother of Charlotte Francis); Publicity Chr. - Nora Stone; Leaders - Ethel Barnett (mother of Virginia Mendenhall) and Lila Moore. These officers Officers were installed in July '40 by county president, Mrs. Charles Ring of North Manchester.

The charter members were: Lila Moore, Nora Stone, Ethel Barnett, Arline Manning, Winona Barnett, Libbie Coblentz, Rose Barnett, Emma Baer, Dorthea Clark, Sarah Weisenberger, Ella River and Lucy Row. The charter membership was held open a couple of months and my Mother encouraged me to join. At the time I had one little girl who was 1 year old.

Over the years we have had some name changes - Home Economics Club, Home Demonstration Club and the current name of Extension Homemakers Club. There were some opportunities for some interesting lessons and some not so interesting ones. As a club we have taken

several trips. Some were: bus trips to Chicago and Cincinnati, and Boat trips down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

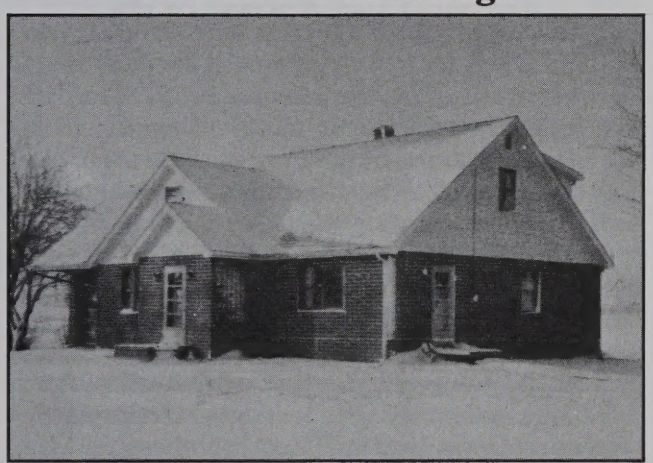
House keeping has changed over the years and we have tried to go along with the changes. At first, our lessons were mainly on housekeeping, gardening, cooking and preserving. Now we have reached out to other areas such as recycling. We have recorded a lot of our fun times in several scrapbooks.

As long as there are women interested in our community and surroundings, we will continue to meet as an Extension Homemakers Club. We enjoy getting together, singing, eating, learning and working together. Most meetings are held at the Richvalley Community Building - built in '68. One thing that members try to do is to participate in community projects. *It has been a great 50 years. We hope we can continue for 50 more.* - Arline Kizer, 1990.

As of 1/1/95 members are Joyce Brewer, Karen Brewer, Laura Coldren, Jane Wilson Cole, Evelyn Row Davey, Ruth Kirby Dyson, Nedra Moore Garrison, Diane Guyer, Susie Wilson Hampton, Bonita Manning Kirtlan, Arline Row Manning Kizer, Deanna LaFerney, Jane Long, Jean McKillip Bowen Myers, Sheila Novak, Lovelle Peas, Patty Baer Sausaman, Eleanor Hanna Wilson, and Jean Daughtery Wilson. Present officers are; Pres. - Eleanor Wilson; Vice Pres. - Ruth Dyson; Sec. - Laura Coldren; Treas. - Jane Long; Past Pres. - Joyce Brewer.

1953

The New Parsonage



Winter scene of new parsonage built in 1953.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. Merrill Geible, serving at Richvalley from 1947 to 1953, that construction of the new parsonage was completed in 1953, but before Rev. Geible and his family could occupy this new home, he was transferred. Rev. Richard Eisinger with his family were the first residents, staying until 1961.

1970

Richvalley Celebrates Church Centennial and Richvalley Community Sesquicentennial

Wabash Plain Dealer Photo

Alan Day was winner in the middle size greased pig contest, but the winner of the heavyweight contest was a girl! A Miss Harvey from Lagro, very much to the embarrassment of the boys.

The following is an excerption from a story in the *Farm News of Wabash County,* October, 1970.

RICHVALLEY CELEBRATES SESQUICENTENNIAL SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20, 1970

Once upon a time there was a little town known as Richvalley. It sounds like a story doesn't it . . . at least the beginning of a story of long ago about a little place you'd like to visit?

Well, for so many people that dreamed-of visit to an old-time village became a reality. Saturday, September 19, was a beautiful day for a celebration. Skies were bright and clear, weather couldn't have been better, and of course the people turned out to enjoy the old-fashioned atmosphere. There were literally thousands of people present during the two-day observance.

Old-fashioned cider was served until the "barrel ran dry", and the ice cream social featuring the real homemade delicacy was a terrific success. People were in lines for more than a block and a half to get a taste of that one of a kind "paddle-beaten" goodness. Another highlight of the feast was the genuine homemade pies and cakes, as well as cookies to eat with the ice cream.

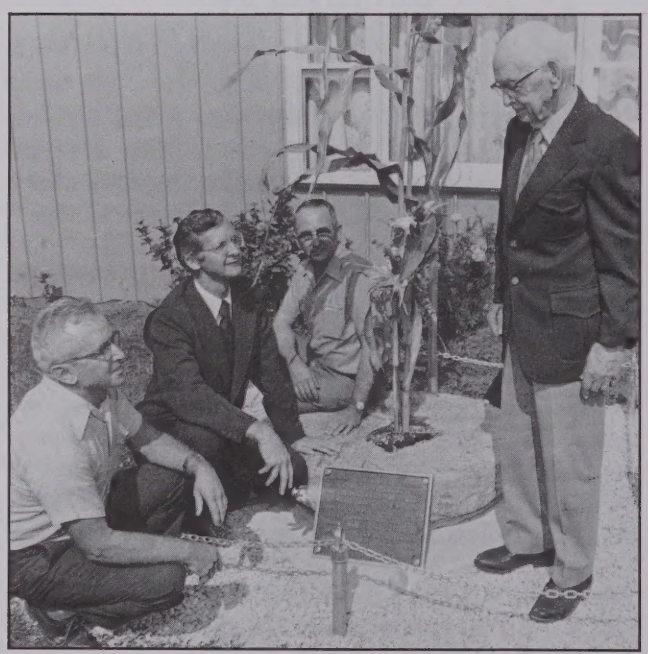
Highlights of the two-day observance was the Heritage program. Everyone who attended was not only impressed with the contribution that Richvalley citizens have made to the entire county for more than 100 years, but they learned many new facts about an old and fine community. Using slides, films and organ music the listeners were literally spellbound as two narrators Mrs. John Wilson and Mrs. David Mills told the history of the little town "on the banks of the Wabash".

Sunday was observed by the Church with special services, with many old friends and several former pastors in attendance. The old-fashioned picnic dinner was held at noon. Visiting continued during the afternoon hours, and in the evening the Heritage program was again presented.

In today's fastpaced world it was like stepping back in time and once again experiencing a slower way of life in a setting of long ago. One came away impressed with the goodness of the "plain folk", quiet living, friendly chatter, and a little bit of nostalgia for the days gone by. The celebration was sparked by the publication of the book, *Richvalley Church Centennial 1870-1970 & Richvalley Community Sesquicentennial 1820-1970.*

1972

September 16, United States Congressman J. Edward Roush dedicates Miami Indian Millstone.



Ron Thrush, Congressman Roush, Flave Brewer and J. Loren Elliott

This millstone is from the Indian Mill at Mill Creek that was built in 1820 as a provision from the St. Mary's Treaty of 1818. The stone was given to the Richvalley Community by J. Loren Elliott whose grandfather, Jacob Q. Elliott had used a team and stone boat to pull the millstone to his farm.

The flag pole behind the millstone was also dedicated by Mr. Roush. It was a gift from the Flavius Brewer family, in memory of Mr. Brewer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Brewer.

1974

Richvalley Lions Club Charted

By Ruth Dyson

Excerpt from *The Richvalley Reporter,* March, 1995

First Club House Built in 1947 (It is now owned by Pat Bernotas)

RICHVALLEY REMEMBERS THE RICHVALLEY LIONS CLUB

The Lions history begins with the Richvalley Conservation Club (formed in 1933). The first meetings were held in the Richvalley School (on the hill). Game Warden - Paul Weisse organized the club and Bill Bowman served as the first president.

After the school was sold, the group held meetings in Cliff Smith's blacksmith shop. The club members raised blue gills and pheasants. The club tried to rid the river of rough fish and protect the game animals and wildlife of the area.

A discussion between leaders of the Boy Scout troop and Conservation Club members resulted in the construction of a club house on McClellan St., in 1947. Most of the work on the 25 x 40 building was done by members and scouts.

Officers at the time were: Gordon Row, Walter Coldren and Flavius Brewer. There became a need for a larger building to comply with the Board of Health specifications. Max Deeter purchased the cement block building.

Land was purchased from Rose Barnett, near the church. The planning committee for a new structure was Rupert Davey, Burnell Barnett and Flavius Brewer.

The new 30 x 60 pole structure was built in 1968. Several people donated materials for the new clubhouse.

Next came the formation of the Richvalley Lions Club. The charter night was October 3, 1974 at the Country Village Restaurant. Urbana Lions sponsored the Richvalley Club.

Charter members of the Richvalley Lions are: Flave Brewer, Larry Brewer, Bud Chain, Mike Cole, Jim Dyson, Ralph Dyson, Gilbert Garrison, Bob Hampton, Jim Keffaber, Bob Long, Mike McKillip, Dennis Manning, Melvin Manning, Harold Parrett, Ray Hopkins, Jim Poor, Marvin Pressler, Gordon Row, Rex Snapp, Russell Snapp, Dick Sparling, Don Griffith, Virgil Swears, Carl Thompson, Randy Thrush, Ron Thrush, Howard Unzicker, Gene Wilson, Gary Wilson and John Wilson.

The first officers were: Jim Dyson, Ray Hopkins, Bob Hampton, Flave Brewer, Randy Thrush, Dick Sparling, Gene Wilson, Mike Cole, Russell Snapp, Bob Long, Dennis Manning, and Gordon Row.

The Club motto is: *WE SERVE.* The club pays basic expenses on the community building plus supporting Indiana Eye Bank, Cancer Control, Leader Dog, LCIF & Salvation Army, Santa's Workshop and community projects or when individuals need assistance.

Some objectives of Lions: to encourage service minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward. Also to take an active interest in civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

The club members serve the 'famous' & delicious pork tenderloins twice a year using the original recipe from Flave Brewer. Tons of tenderloin have been sold and eaten at Peru Circus City Days, a week long event in Peru. This started in 1982 as a joint venture by Richvalley & Peru Lions.

The highest award of Lionism is the Melvin Jones Award which has been presented to Flavius Brewer and Jim Poor.

Present members are: Doc Baer, Flave Brewer, Larry Brewer, Bob Brinson, Mike Cole, Steve Cullers, Jim Dyson, Ralph Dyson, Earl Einselen, Emery Eltzroth, Dick Gidley, Bob Hampton, Greg Houlihan, Ray Hopkins, Jim Keffaber, Rex Kizer, Brian LaFerney, Bob Long, Bruce Mowery, Rod Novak, Jim Poor, George Price, Ben Smith, Dick Sparling, Mike Baker, Randy Thrush, Ron Thrush, Gary Wilson, Gene Wilson, John Wilson, Marshall Wilson, Charles Ziner and Pat Bernotas.

Lions meetings are usually the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Community Center Built in 1968

The Lions Club have drawn plans for a 36 x 40 addition to the west end of the Community Center. The building committee is composed of: Rod Novak, Brain LaFerney, and Jim Dyson.

1976

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO INFORM YOU THAT RICHVALLEY HAS RECEIVED THE HONOR AS HAVING BEEN OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS A BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY BY THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION.

The articles received from our Nation's Capital were the official Bicentennial Certificate, signed by United States Senator John S. Warner, National Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission; the official Bicentennial Flag; and a letter from the White House, signed by President Gerald R. Ford.

Qualifications required to receive this special designation were a written history of the community; a description of the 1976 business and cultural life of the community; to illustrate an expected progress of future growth of agricultural and civic activity in the community.

Flave Brewer and Miami Indian Charles Votra with Richvalley Lions Club Float that won first place in the 1976 Wabash Canal Days Bicentennial parade, and placed 8th in over eighty entrants in the Indiana State Fair Bicentennial parade. The float was designed by Lion Flave. The mill wheel rotated with water power during parades.

A Bicentennial listing had been earned,
By a community that followed the rule.
So it was a surprise when it was learned;
Richvalley - to be Immortalized in a
Time Capsule!

On invitation from the Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial Commission to be placed in a two-cubic,foot time capsule, presented to Governor Otis Bowen by the Reynolds Metal Co., the following were sent to be microfilmed: News clippings of the April 4 Bicentennial ceremony; 1976 Richvalley Harvest Days clippings; 1976 Harvest Days place mat; July page from the Richvalley Elevator calendar; Bard of Thrush Acres book of poems; and a book, titled, "The Bicentennial, Emphasizing the Anthony Wayne Flag, and the Community of Richvalley, Indiana".

The capsule is sealed in the wall in the lower level of the Indiana State Capital.

So youngsters, if you're in Indy on July 4, 2075, be sure to watch the opening of this history-laden container. That's when our Nation's Tricentennial Celebration starts.

1990

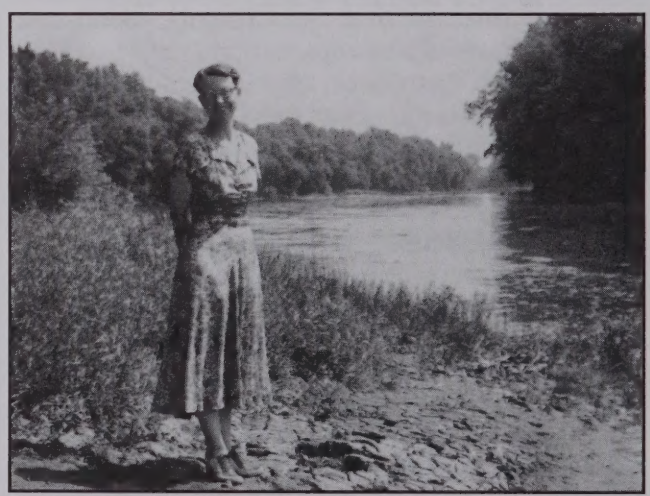
Richvalley Church Celebrates 120th Anniversary

The celebration started on August 26 with the arrival of Pastor Bruce Mowery on horseback dressed in late 1800's to early 1900's attire, and during the celebration, Jack Miller told the story of Richvalley's early 20th Century Boyd Park.

Photo by *"The Paper"*

In connection with the celebration, *Etta Remembers Richvalley* was published with Rev. Ted Jansen updating the history of the church in the book. The words that follow are from this book.

When Etta's father, George Hale was Sunday School Superintendent of the Richvalley Church in 1892, Christmas came on Sunday, and so they could have Christmas entertainment on Sunday morning, they had Sunday School on Saturday night. When walking through the snow from their home to the church, he said, "Etta, I'll expect you'll never forget when you and I went to Sunday School on Saturday night". She never did.



Elisabeth Hamilton Friermood

Elisabeth Hamilton Friermood, well-known author, passed away in 1992 at the age of 88. She was the daughter of Richvalley native, Etta Hale,

who married Fire Chief Burr Hamilton of Marion, Indiana.

She was enchanted with the written word. Beginning in 1951, she published **The Wabash Knows the Secret,** the first of 18 novels intended for young people.

In 1979 she published her last book, *Frier and Elisabeth, Sportsman and Storyteller,* telling the dual stories of her life, and that of her husband.

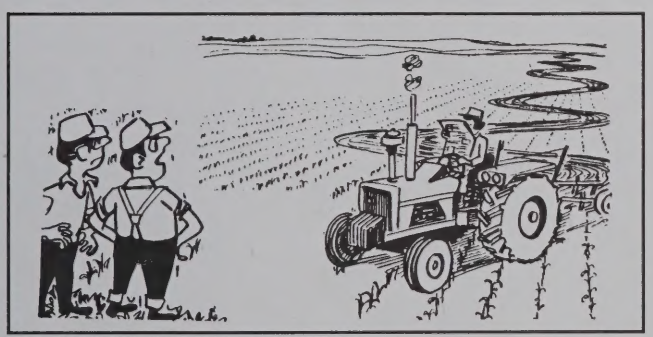
She also mentioned the career of her brother, Dr. Thomas Hale Hamilton who had served as President of the State University of New York, and President of the University of Hawaii. He was also the writer of a once-a-week column in the Honolulu Star-Bulleton.

In chapter 23 she wrote: *Receiving the Sesquicentennial book, 1820-1970, from Richvalley, Indiana sent me off into the long ago. I read every page, even the advertisements. The names, incidents, and places mentioned in the history of the community brought Etta before me, telling once more of the life along the Wabash.*

Obtaining an extra copy of the Richvalley, Indiana Sesquicentennial Book, I sent it to Tom. He was so moved by it that he used it as a subject for his column in the Honolulu Sunday paper, calling it "Richvalley, Indiana, I Love You."

The people and places of the Richvalley Community are forever preserved in her stories.

And from the renowned Richvalley Prairie . . .

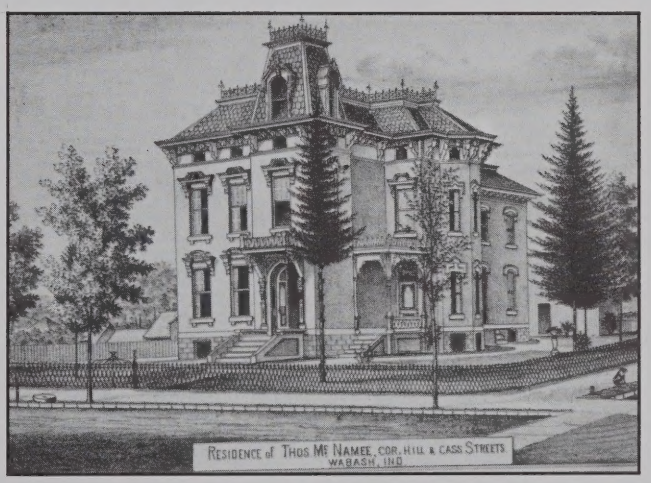


John Unger to Jim Dyson - "Sam should know better than to let Deanna cultivate when the *Richvalley Reporter* comes."

1995

On April 12, the Wabash City Park Board gave the Richvalley Lions Club permission to move the millstone beside the Lincoln Cabin to Richvalley to be displayed with its sister stone at the Richvalley Community Center.

The millstone had been recovered by Thomas McNamee about 1879. He put it in front of his house on the northwest corner of Hill and Cass streets to be used as a stepping stone. The millstone was given to the Wabash City Park some time after the Lincoln Log Cabin had been placed in the park.



(Present home of Ted Eilts)

It was 175 years ago that the Miami Indian Mill was opened to encourage the Indians toward civilized living.

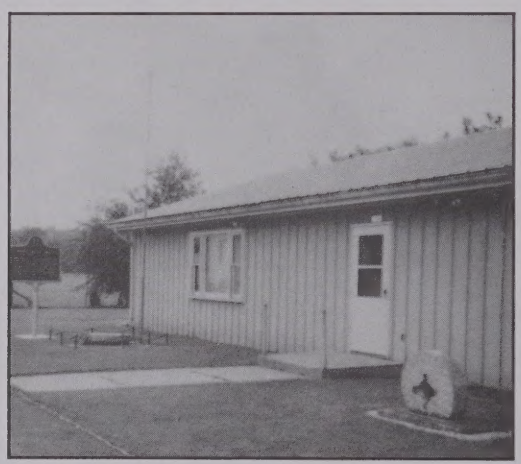
We wonder about the origin of the millstones, and how they were transported to that tiny settlement in the northcentral Indiana forest.

There were no roads and this was years before the arrival of the Wabash and Erie Canal. The only avenue for travel was by way of rivers and streams.

France had a high quality grade of granite especially adaptable for millstone use that was shipped to the United States.

Is it possible that these remarkable artifacts are of European origin? Perhaps we may never know.

But we do know that they are at home together in Richvalley, Indiana.



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